

**ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER  
7-2020**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, as of April 13, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 572,000 cases and 23,000 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, every state in the United States is experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, there are 394 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Montana, 7 total deaths, and 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lewis and Clark County;

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Public Health Command has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Lewis and Clark County:

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Public Health Command has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Lewis and Clark County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Lewis and Clark and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally,

including within the United States, Montana, and Lewis and Clark County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Lewis and Clark County;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has prohibited non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence except for limited purposes;;

WHEREAS, the City-County of Lewis and Clark Board of Health has the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, the City-County of Lewis and Clark Board of Health has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, the City-County Board of Health has determined that the local health officer should institute her authority to close buildings and facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the City-County of Lewis and Clark, Montana;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service has closed certain developed campgrounds in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has closed certain developed state campgrounds in response to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated,

the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Officer, in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health, hereby orders **developed public and private campgrounds closed to recreational use. Exception to this order is use of private developed campgrounds for residential or sheltering purposes and non-developed camping where proper social distancing practices can be followed.**

**This Directive and Order shall be effective April 17, 2020, through May 31, 2020, pending further notification.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Drenda Niemann".

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Drenda Niemann

HEALTH OFFICER FOR CITY-COUNTY OF Lewis and Clark, MONTANA